

THE
CHRISTIAN HERALD.

VOL. I.]

Wednesday, May 3, 1816.

[No. 7.]

THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY.

No. III.

IN the inquiry we have commenced, a third subject for consideration is, *What are our present means, and our future resources*, for the establishment and support of the National Institution proposed to be formed? That there is a great mass of monied capital at present in the United States, no one will deny who is well informed on this subject. But a few years ago, within the memory of all who were adults during our revolutionary war, it will be recollected that, for a considerable period, but one bank was for some time in existence in any State of the Union. This bank possessed a very moderate capital, and its operations were very limited. At present there exist in the United States nearly 100 banks, with capitals to the amount of 35 millions, and circulating a paper currency to the amount of *two hundred and thirty millions of dollars*. If it be objected that this is all a *paper medium*, and not an actual representation of property to that amount, it is answered, that it has the most solid foundation. It is secured by the real and personal property of the merchants, mechanics, and farmers, who borrow the money of the banks, and put it into circulation. Our population is probably at this time not less than 8,000,000. This population is increasing very rapidly; and our wealth seems to increase in equal proportion. Our national revenue, which prior to the war was at no time higher than \$16,000,000, is now estimated at \$25,000,000. With means and resources, therefore, such as are now enjoyed by the citizens of America, what ground is there to apprehend any want of *ability* to support, in a manner worthy of a nation of Protestant Christians, a National Institution, on the plan now in contemplation. Nothing is wanted but a *proper spirit*. To awaken the energies, and to direct the efforts of the liberal and pious throughout our country, is now the grand desideratum. Nor can we doubt but that, by the adoption of a judicious plan,

by a just selection of character, and a zealous prosecution of the means hereafter to be pointed out for procuring patronage, the blessing of Heaven will follow this attempt to do good on a more enlarged scale. In such a cause, the very effort would be honourable, whatever might be its result.

“ In great attempts, 'tis glorious e'en to fail.”

Our obligations to Heaven for the light which as Christians we enjoy, should strongly urge us to undertake this work on a larger scale than any yet attempted. From the general diffusion of knowledge throughout our country,---from the ample rewards which are given and secured by our laws to industry and enterprise,---and from possessing a government which protects the labouring class of the community from the oppression of the rich and powerful, it has happened, that among no people on earth have the Holy Scriptures been more generally possessed. These blessings are great, and demand our warmest thanks to Heaven. But our gratitude should not evaporate in mere acknowledgments : it should be operative and efficient. Like the vapour exhaled by the rays of the sun, it should return again like the dew of heaven on the parched plains, refreshing the plants ready to perish for lack of moisture, and scattering fragrance and fruitfulness around.

Nor need we extend our views *very remotely*, in order to discover subjects for Christian charity and beneficence. By means of the efforts of our numerous *local* Societies, the wants of our poor in the Atlantic States have, in a good degree, been already supplied. There is, however, still scope for further exertions, even here ; but these may safely be left to the future efforts of the Societies already in existence. We are now invited and urged, by considerations the most imperative, to extend the hand of Christian benevolence to our fellow-citizens and Christian brethren, scattered along our widely extended frontier settlements. From authentic information recently communicated to the public by Messrs. Mills and Smith, who performed a Missionary tour in the years 1814 and 1815, through the Western and South-Western parts of the United States, we have a view of the deplorable state of ignorance,---of the destitute condition in regard to Bibles,---and of the predominance of gross vice and profligacy, arising from these causes, which exist at this time among the inhabitants of our newly formed settlements.

These adventurous Missionaries, with a spirit truly apostolic, have encountered danger, toil, and privation, in order to supply the spiritual wants of their suffering fellow-chris-

tians ; and, by the exposition they have given of the state and circumstances of that portion of our land, have awakened the sympathies of thousands in these more favoured districts, who will gladly contribute their aid in the heavenly effort to scatter widely in those Western regions the precious seed of divine truth.

The information given by these Missionaries, is contained in a pamphlet of 64 octavo pages, printed last year at Andover. We shall extract from it a few of the many passages, which show the destitute condition of the country over which they passed, and which prove the necessity and probable usefulness of a National Bible Institution, such as that now in contemplation.

Writing from the Illinois Territory, on the 12th of January, 1815, they say : “ We ascertained that there never had been any English Bibles or French Testaments sent into this Territory for gratuitous distribution, except in one instance. Some time since, the Directing Committee of the Philadelphia Bible Society sent to the care of Dr. Elliot, then residing at St. Genevieve, a number of English Bibles and French Testaments, to be distributed by him. The English Bibles were soon given out, and the French Testaments principally. *This Territory presents a very important and interesting field for Missionary labours.*

“ One man whom we saw in this Territory, informed us, that for ten or fifteen years he had been using exertions to obtain the sacred Scriptures, but without success. Notwithstanding there are many ready and able to purchase the Scriptures, still there are others who cannot with convenience supply themselves, and must for many years, perhaps as long as they live, be destitute of the Bible in their families ; unless their wants are relieved by others, who have ability and a disposition to supply them.”

“ We did not find any place in this Territory, where a copy of the Scriptures could be obtained. Merchants occasionally bring into the Territory books of this description. The common school Bible is not unfrequently sold for *two dollars.*”

“ From the best estimate we could make, with respect to the proportionate number of destitute families in the three Territories, we are led to believe, that 10 or 12,000 Bibles are necessary for the supply of every destitute family.”---

“ You will readily perceive, Sir, that living, as most of the people of these Territories do, 1000 or 1500 miles distant from any place where the Bible is printed, very many of them,

for a long time, must remain destitute; unless their necessities can be relieved, at least in a considerable degree, by the Managers of the Bible Societies in the different States. Do, Sir, intercede with the Managers of Bible Societies in your vicinity, to aid in supplying the destitute poor in this portion of our country."

Writing from Tennessee on the 1st of February, 1815, they say: "The want of Bibles and other religious books, in this State, is probably as great as in Kentucky. A respectable clergyman says, 'Perhaps one fourth of our population has not a Bible.' According to this estimate, which we think is too favourable, more than 10,000 Bibles are here wanted, to give a copy to each destitute family."

"We had many applications for the sacred Scriptures, with which we could not comply. Some of the people asserted, that they never had an opportunity to purchase the Bible at any price, though they had long been anxious to possess it. Others were evidently too poor to furnish themselves, without much inconvenience. The Bible was received by many to whom it was presented, with an eagerness which induced us to believe that it would prove 'a lamp to their feet and a light to their path.'"

At Natchez, on the river Mississippi, they say: "Five thousand copies of the Scriptures, we believe, would not more than supply the destitute. Unless, therefore, some more efficient means are used to enlighten that benighted portion of our country, the day of glory will dawn on the rest of the world, long before the darkness will be dispelled from these regions."

On the 6th of April, 1815, they write thus from New-Orleans: "In West-Florida, the attention of some of the inhabitants was not long since turned to the subject of religion. Many of them solicit Bibles whenever there is a prospect that they can be supplied, which is very rare. There are some American families in this part of our country, *who never saw a Bible, nor heard of Jesus Christ*. There are some hopefully pious persons, who cannot obtain a Bible or a Testament."

"It is a fact that ought not to be forgotten, that so late as last March, *a Bible in any language could not be found for sale or to be given away in New-Orleans*. And yet *eight thousand* Bibles would not supply the destitute in this State."

On this statement, these zealous heralds of the cross ground

the following impressive "Appeal to the Christian Public."

"What, then, is to be done? Shall we leave one of our fairest cities to be overwhelmed with vice and folly? The dreaded inundation of the Mississippi would not be half so ruinous. *Now*, by divine assistance, an effectual barrier may be opposed to the flood of iniquity. And is the liberality of the Christian community exhausted? Have you no Bibles to give? no Missionaries to send? Are there no men of apostolic spirit, who desire not 'another man's line of things made ready to their hands?' Then is this city wretched and hopeless indeed. But surely the cry of some of its citizens must be heard: it is earnest and importunate. It is continually sounding in our ears, Send us some one to break to us the bread of life."

From the view presented by Messrs. Mills and Smith, of the deplorable want of Bibles among our Western brethren, who does not feel an ardent desire to supply this want? Who does not perceive the importance and necessity of a National Institution, whose expanded charity shall send the word of life to the destitute poor in the remotest district of United America?

The *blessings* we should confer, by a wider circulation of the Bible, on multitudes now living in vice and ignorance, and on many who once lived in a land of Bibles, but have since removed to regions where the Holy Scriptures are not to be obtained on any terms,---are great beyond calculation. Those, and those only, can justly estimate the value of the sacred records, who know the true value of the human soul, and the importance of eternity.

Of the benefits which we ourselves might derive from the establishment of a National Bible Society, we may form some conception; but we cannot minutely describe, nor sufficiently appreciate them. That such an Institution would have a tendency to secure the gratitude and affections of those to whom its bounty would be extended: that it would be calculated more firmly to cement together the members of our widely extended community: that it would tend to awaken pious zeal, and unite the various denominations of Christians among us, by ties of mutual charity and esteem: but above all, that it would draw down the blessing of Heaven on us as a Christian community,---are advantages which may be justly expected to result from the contemplated establishment.

Let us, then, invoking the blessing of God on the effort, make the attempt to lay the foundation of an Institution,

which shall collect the resources of United America; and, with a charity to be impeded by no obstacle, and chilled by no lukewarmness, aim at circulating the inspired volume wherever there is ignorance to be enlightened, and want to be supplied.

WYCKLIFFE.

Princeton, 25th April, 1816.

THE following Report exhibits a striking proof of the valuable acquisition which the Bible cause has derived from having the zeal, the exertions, and the influence of benevolent and pious females, employed in promoting its benign object. What a blessing would it be to our land, if similar Institutions, producing such fruits, were formed in all our large cities!

(FROM THE RELIGIOUS REMEMBRANCER.)

Report of the Philadelphia Female Bible Society.

THE second anniversary meeting of the Female Bible Society of Philadelphia, was held on Wednesday, 27th March, 1816. The business of the day was opened with prayer by the Right Rev. Dr. White, after which the following Report was presented and read:

At this period of another revolving year, when your Managers are called upon to make an annual report to the Female Bible Society of Philadelphia, it is with peculiar pleasure, that, in fulfilling this duty, they have the opportunity of observing the more than wonderful, the astonishing thirst for improvement and knowledge in the Holy Scriptures which prevails in every direction.

When we consider the results that have attended the exertions of the British and Foreign Bible Society, established at so recent a date as in the year 1804, and that there have been issued from that Society alone, in the course of eleven years, upwards of a million three hundred thousand Bibles and Testaments, and that they have given rise to similar associations in every quarter of the world, in aid of the pious design, we cannot withhold our acknowledgments of the exalted merits of the first founders of the plan: their names should be enrolled in the brightest annals of history. As the instrument in the hands of Providence of rendering much good to mankind, the influence of the Holy Word appears to be extended in all languages; from the east unto the west, and from the north unto the south; it is universally received with gratitude and readiness of mind, and is unto many a cause of great joy. In the limited sphere of our experience, numerous cases have occurred, where that joy has been evinced in expressions of the most animated thankfulness, for the donation of a Bible. Your Managers derive great satisfaction from a retrospect of the usefulness which we hope our efforts have attained, in distributing to the lowly needy, the oracles of life. It might be considered as entering into too minute a detail, were we to report the many interesting examples that have come under the notice of the Managers of this Society, of the impressions made by the giving of a Bible; but the relation of one instance, affecting and illustrative, we hope will not be deemed obtrusive or irrelative. A poor woman to whom a Bible had been given, on being visited by the lady who had supplied her, accosted her benefactress with saying, "Oh! that I could sufficiently thank you; but I have the comfort of knowing that you will be blessed by One greater than me!" Surely our humble exertions are amply rewarded by such returns: and when we reflect that the Eternal condescends to make use of

us as the means of communicating his Holy Word to some of his creatures, who for happiness were created, but who have hitherto remained in darkness and doubt; are we not awakened to a grateful sense of his goodness, and excited to persevere with energy in the work which our heavenly Father hath appointed us?

In observing the successful progress made by the different Bible Societies of Europe, in spreading abroad the Holy Scriptures, even amidst the din of war, thereby manifesting the goodness and greatness of our God, offering comfort and hope to the wretched; who can resist the feeling that would impel us to perform some part in diffusing the gospel light among the ignorant and destitute of this our western hemisphere? The bright example from the east has had the happy effect, and already there have been formed (according to the intelligence received) more than one hundred and twenty Societies in the United States for circulating the book of life; the first of which was established in the city of Philadelphia. The increasing zeal evinced throughout our favoured land, furnishes well grounded expectation, that more associations will soon be added to the list already known, especially as the female part of the community unite their efforts in a cause so intimately affecting the welfare of the human race. It is an agreeable reflection, that the establishment of this institution was so favourably received, and the plan adopted by our sisters in many parts of our own, and the neighbouring States. Several communications have been sent to us, expressive of the general approbation; and among others, an acceptable attention shown towards it from the British and Foreign Bible Society, by the transmission through their Assistant Secretary of the 10th and 11th Reports of that Society, with some pamphlets relative to their proceedings. Attentions of this sort, cannot but excite a due acknowledgment from this Society, and animate their exertions; as they prove that the small contribution which the Society has in its power to afford, is of value in the general cause. Much has been done, yet much remains to be effected. It would be a pleasing task to collect and detail the various interesting information that might be obtained from the reports of the different Bible Societies that have appeared in print, of the extended circulation of the "glad tidings of salvation;" but it would exceed the objects of the present report. Suffice it to mention, that the New-York Bible Society alone have issued for gratuitous distribution, previous to the commencement of the present year, fourteen thousand and six Bibles; and that they had then on hand five hundred and seventy-two Bibles and Testaments in different languages. That the Bible Society of Philadelphia gratuitously distributed in one year, preceding May, 1815, *three thousand one hundred and forty seven* Bibles and Testaments, besides about *five thousand* New Testaments in the French language, distributed in Louisiana and the adjacent territories; and that they issued from their stereotype press in the same period, twenty two thousand eight hundred and seventy six Bibles and Testaments: exhibiting a zeal and exertion in that Society which cannot fail of being attended with success and advantage to the general community. The Female Bible Society of Philadelphia have with much gratification distributed wherever the desire has been expressed, or the utility apparent, since the last annual report, *one thousand three hundred and eighty one* Bibles.

The expense of the purchase of these Bibles, has been discharged by the funds of the Society, which arise from an annual subscription of its Members, of such donations as are liberally made, and the investment of life subscriptions.

It appears by the Report at our last annual meeting, that there were then 635 annual subscribers, and 10 life subscribers. In addition, there was received, as donations, the amount of 385 dollars, 35 cents. And we have the pleasure to state, that there has also been an addition to our list, of fifty-one annual subscribers, of three life subscriptions, and of fifty-one dollars as donations to the Society.

Besides the discharge of incidental expenses, the Society have been enabled to contribute, and have paid to the Philadelphia Bible Society, the sum of 1000

dollars, in aid of their purchase of a larger size stereotype, for publishing the New Testament—and there now remains in the hands of the Treasurer of this Society, the amount of 127 dollars, and 75 cents, as will appear by the Treasurer's account.

From this brief exhibit, the Society have cause of thankfulness for the benevolent dispositions of its members, and for the assistance they have received in promoting the great objects of the institution.

The rapid multiplication of similar Societies, throughout our country, evinces the interest that has been raised in almost every circle to advance that Kingdom which alone can stand—and will justify the conclusion, that a new light hath broken forth upon the world, and that every ensuing anniversary, will afford new hopes, that the Lord our God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations of the earth.

The support which the Bible affords to those who have suffered under the pressure of affliction, there are, perhaps, some among us, whose own experience can feelingly evidence. To such, the being made instrumental in communicating the source of comfort to a fellow sufferer, is a privilege at once soothing and consolatory. The truths and promises which the Scriptures contain, alone have the power of mitigating the anguish of an almost broken heart, under the afflictive dispensations of an all-mighty, all-wise, yet infinitely merciful Providence. Unsearchable are thy ways, Oh God! yet mercy and goodness [are revealed in thy most holy word: Favoured, indeed, are those, who have been early initiated in its sacred mysteries! When the day of trials (and trials we must expect in this sublunary state) and when the hour of death approaches, they are ready prepared. When temporal sorrows overwhelm the soul, or when perplexing temptations assail our faith, the sacred Scriptures are calculated to calm the most troubled spirit, and dispel the darkest clouds.

Under the firm conviction of the justness of this statement, we are encouraged to persevere in the undertaking in which we are engaged, grateful that we are permitted so high a privilege. To Him alone, to whom must be attributed the first excitement of the spirit in us to make the attempt, and giving the attempt a good effect, be all the glory!

[Accompanying the preceding interesting Report, is an abstract of the Treasurer's accounts for the year, audited by a Committee from the Board of Managers, by which it appears that the Society received in donations, in life subscriptions, and annual subscriptions, the sum of *sixteen hundred and fifty-two dollars and twelve cents*, and expended the sum of *fifteen hundred and twenty-two dollars and thirty-seven cents*; leaving a balance on hand of *one hundred and twenty-seven dollars and seventy-five cents*. Treasurer, Mrs. Mary Montgomery; Auditors, Mrs. Anne Patterson, Mrs. Dorothea Dale, and Mrs. Juliana Miller.]

OFFICERS FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

President, Mrs. Ralston; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Chew, Mrs. Josiah, Mrs. Murray, and Mrs. T. Latimer; Treasurer, Mrs. M. Montgomery; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. E. Chauncey; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Keene.



ALBANY BIBLE SOCIETY.

It would appear, from the following extract, that during the last year (with the exception of a few Bibles which the Albany Auxiliary Bible and Common Prayer Book Society may have distributed) *only eighty-three copies of the Holy Scriptures have supplied the wants of the destitute in the political metropolis of this State and its vicinity, which must embrace a population of no less than fifteen thousand souls.*

It will also be seen, that the Albany Bible Society have on hand not only a year's supply of the sacred volume for gratuitous distribution, but also about two thousand dollars in surplus funds, which they will no doubt soon employ to great advantage in promoting the circulation of "the words of eternal life" in places where many thousands of their fellow-men are perishing for lack of vision.

Extract from the Fifth Annual Report of The Albany Bible Society.

THE Board of Managers feel a lively satisfaction in again meeting that benevolent Institution, in whose name, and by whose authority they act, with congratulations on the past, and encouragements for the future. They are again enabled, through the good providence of God, to exclaim, "HE hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations!" A glance at the wonderful operations of his word throughout the known world, at the present period, evinces with the utmost clearness, that he is blessing the nations of the earth in his servant ABRAHAM.

The following summary statement of the manner in which the Managers have fulfilled their important trust, is respectfully submitted to the Society.

During the past year, they have distributed two hundred and fifty copies of the Holy Scriptures. Thirty-two of this number have been sent to the relief of the destitute in the province of Upper Canada, through the agency of Mess. OLMSTEAD and McDOWAL: Twenty have been committed to the hands of the Rev. Dr. PROUDFIT: Thirty have been distributed in Canandaigua, by the Rev. Mr. TORREY: Thirty copies have been sent to the Rev. Mr. COMSTOCK, in the county of Essex, for distribution: Twelve copies have been delivered to the Rev. Mr. SPINNER, for the destitute at Herkimer: Twenty have been distributed in Carlisle, by the hands of Mr. PARKINSON: Five copies have been distributed in the town of Otsego: Six in the town of Providence, by Mr. WAGER; and twelve in the town of Sharon, by Mr. JONES. The remaining copies [*eighty-three Bibles*] were bestowed in the city, and in the vicinity of Albany. They have still on hand 228 copies.

The fact that the demands for the Holy Scriptures, have been less extensive on this Society during the past year, than in the year preceding, is probably owing to the rapid multiplication of similar Institutions throughout this state: an event which the Managers feel peculiarly happy in communicating.

The Board, with unfeigned pleasure, acknowledge the receipt of the sum of 105 dollars, as a donation from the congregational church, in Canandaigua, under the pastoral care of the Rev. Mr. TORREY. It is worthy of particular remark, that this contribution was the *emphatic manner* in which that Society expressed its gratitude to the Great Benefactor of nations for the restoration of peace to our country, on the day of national thanksgiving.

A donation has also been received from the youth, attending the schools of Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. and Mrs. UPPOLD, to the amount of 12 dollars and 50 cents, collected by small weekly contributions. Information has been received, that this pleasing and laudable example will be followed by others also. Thus the hearts of the rising generation are devising liberal things, and learning to sympathize in the moral wants and wretchedness of their fellow men.

The Society has also been lately increased by the addition of about forty new Members.

As our views should be bounded by no limits but those which separate man from the irrational world, we should receive every intelligence of a sphere calling for exertions, as a direction and an encouragement to cast our bread upon the wide ocean of God's providence. A letter has been received from Mr. OLMSTEAD, stating that the copies of the Scriptures which were committed to him for distribution in Upper Canada, were received with the most

affecting emotions of gratitude; and that that province is in a high degree destitute, and desirous of the written word of God.

The calamities of war have also stripped many of our frontier settlements, not only of the oracles of life, but also of the means of replacing them; they are therefore greatly dependent on the liberality of their fellow christians, and their claims to the attention and the aid of Bible Societies are solemn and pressing.

Treasurer's Account.

CR. THE ALBANY BIBLE SOCIETY,

In account current with E. F. Backus, Treasurer.

1815.		D. C.
Feb.	By amount of cash on hand, - - - -	594 12
17.	By cash received for interest on 2 notes, - - - -	56 00
May	By do. a donation from the church at Canandaigua, - - - -	105 00
	By do. from one life subscriber. - - - -	30 00
July	By do. 2 annuities do. - - - -	6 00
	By do. for 81 annuities, - - - -	262 00
	By do. from Abm. A. Lansing, - - - -	1 00
	By do. for 4 annuities, - - - -	8 00
August 22.	By do. from 1 subscriber and 4 annuities, - - - -	11 00
Sept. 9.	By do. „ do. - - - -	3 00
October 5.	By do. for 2 annuities, - - - -	4 00
Dec. 22.	By do. for a donation from the children in the schools of Mr. and Mrs. Upfold and Mr. Young, - - - -	12 50
Feb. 12.	By cash collected in the 1st Presbyterian church, - - - -	190 83
		<hr/> 1183 45

Dr.

1815.		D. C.
March 16.	To cash paid for printing the Report, - - - -	17 00
July	To do. paid Mr. Lansing, his commission for collect- ing 131 dollars in annuities, at 5 pr. ct. - - - -	6 55
	To amount of 1 counterfeit bill received by Mr. Lansing, - - - -	5 00
Nov. 28.	To cash for freight and cartage on 250 bibles, - - - -	1 37 1-2
	To do. paid stamping - - - do. - - - -	1 00
	To amount of a bill on the Detroit bank, received at the North Dutch church, Feb. 1813, - - - -	5 00
		<hr/> 35 92 1-2
	To amount of cash on hand to new account, - - - -	1147 52 1-2
		<hr/> 1183 45

FUNDS OF THE SOCIETY.

Cash on hand, - - - -	1147 52 1-2
Two notes on interest, - - - -	800 00
Interest due on same, - - - -	56 00
Due from 1 subscriber, - - - -	3 00
do. for 6 annuities, for 1812, - - - -	12 00
do. „ 16 do. „ 1813, - - - -	32 00
do. „ 28 do. „ 1814, - - - -	56 00
do. „ 33 do. „ 1815, - - - -	66 00
	<hr/>
Bibles on hand, 228. - - - -	2172 52 1-2
N. B. There is due to Messrs. Hudson & Goodwin, subject to their order, for 250 Bibles received, - - - -	157 75
250 do. ordered, - - - -	457 75
	<hr/>
	315 50

The subscribers, appointed a committee to audit the accounts of the treasurer of the Albany Bible Society, have performed the duty assigned them, and find them correct, leaving a balance in favor of the society of eleven hundred and forty seven 52-100 dollars.

February 13, 1816.

R. WESTERLO, } Committee.
C. BULKLEY, }

At a meeting of the Albany Bible Society, on the 13th February, 1816.

Resolved, That it be the duty of the Managers to furnish copies of the Constitution to persons in the several towns in this county: and that they use their exertions to procure the formation of Auxiliary Societies in different parts of of the county.

(CIRCULAR.)

ALBANY, March, 1816.

SIR,

The Albany Bible Society, impressed with the belief that much greater efforts may be successfully made, for the distribution of the sacred word of life, take the liberty to request your attention to the subject of forming a Bible Association, or an Auxiliary Bible Society, in the town in which you reside.

The demand for Bibles in this county, and throughout those regions in which our exertions may be advantageously employed, calls for the most vigorous efforts. Bible Associations, formed in each of our towns, would supply the destitute in this county; and if their contributions should exceed the sum necessary to furnish Bibles for the destitute in this vicinity, the balance will go into the funds of the Society for the promotion of its general objects.

The Subscribers appointed for that purpose, at the late annual meeting of the Albany Bible Society, enclose a copy of its Constitution, and the last report of its Managers and Treasurer. We beg leave to solicit your exertions to form an Auxiliary Society or a Bible Association in your town. The Managers of the Society in Albany, will give you any assistance in their power in procuring Bibles. Perhaps it would be best to form Bible Associations which should embrace all those who should be disposed to subscribe any sum they may feel able to devote to this purpose annually. You will best judge how large the annual subscription ought to be, but we venture to suggest that in most cases it should be of moderate amount. If your funds are sent to us, you will receive as many Bibles as you can distribute to advantage within your bounds. In forming your Constitution, you will be assisted by the one which we send. We think that it would be very desirable to have an annual report from your Association for the benefit of this Society.

We hope that you will not fail to exert yourself, to animate your neighbours, to assist the interesting charity which this Institution is intended to promote.

This subject has been so long and distinctly before the Christian public—it has received so decided support from the friends of the Redeemer—the diffusion of the Bible has been followed by consequences so auspicious to piety, so beneficial to the souls of men—we feel it to be unnecessary to offer any motive, to urge any arguments to persuade you to give this communication your prompt attention, and this charity your vigorous support.

Respectfully, yours,

J. CHESTER,
J. WOODWORTH,
H. BLEECKER

Officers of the Society for the year ensuing.

Rev. John M. Bradford, D. D. President; Rev. William Neill, D. D. 1st Vice-President; Rev. Samuel Blatchford, D. D. 2d Vice-President; Harmanus Bleecker, Esq. Corresponding Secretary; John Stearns, M. D. Recording Secretary; Eleazer F. Backus, Treasurer.

FOR THE CHRISTIAN HERALD.

Thoughts respecting the ancient covenant people of God.

THE present is an age of wonders. Who that does not wilfully close his eyes upon the present state of the world, in connexion with the language of prophecy, but must behold the rapid march of events towards the glorious era, when that kingdom which is Righteousness and Peace shall be established throughout the habitable globe? What mean the mighty throes and convulsions which have lately shook the nations; which have caused the mightiest empires to totter to their base? What mean the awful clouds which have overcast the political horizon of the civilized world, deluging it with blood, while ruin and desolation have stalked abroad, and threatened the complete subversion of every vestige of social order and harmony among the nations? What is this but a manifest display of the indignation of the Most High, and a fulfilment of that *short work* which he foretold he would make on the earth? What is it, indeed, but a prelude to the introduction of those days of peace which the Lord hath promised to give to his Church?

But while these judgments have been abroad in the earth, the inhabitants thereof have learned righteousness. Amidst the most tremendous judgments, the choicest mercies have been poured upon a sinful world. Never, since the days of the apostles, have such multitudes been turned from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, as within a few years past. Never, since the commencement of the Christian era, have faithful worshippers been so numerous, so zealous in every good work. Let us glance for a moment on the wonderful exertions that have been made by the faithful in all countries, in the formation of moral and religious Societies, for the improvement of savage and civilized man; and reject, if we can, the conviction that the Lord is visiting the earth in mercy; that he is "descending in his chariot paved with love." What but the power of God could have produced such a mighty revolution in the moral taste, and have given such a *tone* to the moral feelings of every class of the community, from the prince to the peasant, throughout Christendom? Whoever looks at the signs of the times, and does not see the rapid fulfilment of the prophecies concerning the latter day, in all these events, must be awfully stupid in relation to the subject. And can Christians behold these things unmoved? He does not deserve the name of Chris-

man, who feels no solicitude to use his influence, however small it may be, in promoting the great work which the Lord is now performing on the earth?

But Christians *do* feel animated by these events. They *will* strive, by every means in their power, to bring about the great designs of mercy which are unfolding: their labours of love have been abundantly owned and blessed by Him who declares that the Gospel must be preached to all nations: their zeal and their labours will be acknowledged and rewarded by that Voice, at which the world will tremble and be silent.

But while Bibles and Missionaries are sent in every direction,---while the news of salvation is borne on almost every breeze to cheer the Pagan nations, and while the faithful at home are diligently engaged in their labours of love for the heathen, that the precious name of Jesus may be proclaimed to every other nation under heaven,---while each seems emulous to excel in zeal to bring in the fulness of the *Gentiles*,---the ancient covenant people of God, the *Jews*, seem neglected and forgotten. Scattered over the face of the whole earth, the scoff, the derision of every other nation, they live neglected and die forgotten. To them no Saviour is proclaimed: by them the charming sound of the Gospel is never heard; the sweet accents of pardoning love never swelled their hearts with gratitude, nor taught their lips to sing of mercy! And why, let me inquire, are they thus neglected, thus abandoned? Is it because they have sinned beyond the reach of mercy---because there is no animating promise to the penitent children of Abraham? Is there then no balm in Gilead, no Physician there? Yes, blessed be His name, who is the God of the *Jew* as well as of the *Gentile*, "he will not retain his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy." The Jews shall be brought in *with* the fulness of the Gentiles. Are we, Gentiles, favoured with the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ, and is the secret of the Lord with us?---are our eyes open to contemplate the wonders of redeeming love, while the children of Abraham are blinded; and shall we make no exertions to remove the vail which has so long concealed from their view the light of life? Will it be urged, that God has declared that he had given them up to judicial hardness, for their crime in crucifying the Lord of Life and Glory? But has not he also declared by his prophets, that a period shall be put to their degrading servitude, to their humiliation? Has he not said, that the days shall come when he will make a new covenant with the house of Jacob, and the inhabitants of

Jerusalem, not according to the covenant he made with their fathers, in the day when he brought them up out of the land of Egypt; "But this is the covenant I will make with them after those days, saith the LORD, *I will put my law in their heart*, and print it on their inward part; and they *shall* be my people, and *I will* be their God."

Has it not been for ages the ardent desire and the daily prayer of the servants of the Most High, that the veil might be taken from the eyes of the ancient people of God, and that they might be brought into the Gospel fold, and obey the Shepherd of Israel? Is not this the constant prayer of the pious at the present day? But how, let me ask, is it (and O! that the question may sink deep into the hearts of Christians!) that while great and astonishing events are taking place, through the blessing of the Lord, on the exertions of Christians in sending the Gospel to other nations, they, with one consent, seem, as it were, to forget that any *means* are to be employed in the conversion of the Jews, and to conclude that they are to be made partakers of the privileges of the Gospel simply by prayer, without means, without exertion.

Is it imagined by any, that the time has not arrived, in relation to them, and that exertion would be in vain? With equal, if not greater propriety, might it have been urged, at the dawn of Missionary exertions, that all attempts to evangelize the heathen, were at that time premature, and would be unavailing. And such, indeed, was the language of many at that period, who have lived to see and acknowledge that the thing proceeded from God.

The richest blessings, "even the sure mercies of David," are in store for the dispersed of Israel, and the time is at hand when their eyes will be opened; when "they shall look on him whom they have pierced, and mourn, and be in bitterness." But preparatory to this glorious event, the eyes of Christians must be opened to feel the force of a duty too long neglected; that prayer and exertion should go hand in hand, in relation to the conversion of the Jews, as well as in the conversion of the Gentiles. Who that reads the prophetic writings respecting the Jews, but must exult in the prospect, and feel animated with an ardent zeal, *immediately* to commence the glorious work; and rejoice that he is honoured as among the first in his exertions to promote the salvation of a nation, which, though now oppressed and degraded, was once the people whom the Lord delighted to honour, and respecting whose restoration again to his favour,

the honour of Jehovah is pledged. For our encouragement in this blessed undertaking, let it be remarked, that a Society has lately been formed in the metropolis of Great-Britain, for the express object of evangelizing the Jews; but, it is believed, that no attempt of the kind has ever been made on this side the Atlantic. Let Christians lay this interesting object to heart, and make it the subject of their prayers that they may be directed to such means as will produce the effects which are sought. For Israel "shall be a crown of glory in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God: they shall no more be termed Desolate, but shall be called the holy people, the Redeemed of the Lord, Sought out, a city not forsaken."

Should these hints be deemed worthy of a place, I propose in another number to extend my thoughts on this most interesting subject.

ISAIAH.

In order to gratify the desires, and suit the taste of many of our readers, we shall occasionally insert *selected anecdotes*, and various other matter, calculated to afford entertainment with useful instruction.

The following letter, taken from the correspondence of the British and Foreign Bible Society, though not new to the few who have perused the interesting Reports of that Institution, will, we trust, be acceptable to the many who have no opportunity of reading them.

A Letter from a respectable Clergyman in Alsace.

ACCEPT, my dearest friend, our most unfeigned thanks for the sum of £30. which you have transmitted to us as a kind present from some English friends, for the purpose of purchasing and distributing French and German Bibles among the poor inhabitants of our and the neighbouring villages, where four different religious denominations are to be met with, namely, Roman Catholics, Lutherans, Reformed, and Baptists. May God, for Christ's sake, impart his blessing to this act of Christian benevolence, in order that his name may be glorified, and his kingdom come!

You will be glad to learn some particulars respecting the use which I intend to make of this money.

I have ordered, and soon expect to get 50 copies of the French Protestant Bible, printed at Basil. Though the type is rather too small for country people, yet we have infinite reason to bless God for being enabled to procure even these. In the mean while, I have made a list of such persons as I consider most deserving of such a present. Among the large number of individuals and families to whom a Bible is a most welcome present, I first put down such characters as are most active in promoting the Redeemer's kingdom, and in doing good to the bodies and souls of their fellow-men.

1. The first Bible shall be given as a present to Sophia Bernard, who is one of the most excellent women I know, and, indeed, an ornament to my parish. While unmarried, she undertook, with the consent of her parents, the support and education of three helpless boys, whom their wicked father had often trampled under his feet, and treated in a manner too shocking to relate, when nearly starving with hunger, they dared to cry out for food. Soon afterwards

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she proved the happy means of saving the lives of four Roman Catholic children, who, without her assistance, would have fallen a prey to want and famine. Thus she had the management of seven children, to whom several more were added, belonging to members of three several denominations: she now hired a house and a servant girl, and supported the whole of the family entirely with her own work, and the little money she got from the industry of the children, whom she taught to spin cotton. At the same time, she proved the greatest blessing to the whole village where she lived. For it is impossible to be more industrious, frugal, clean, cheerful, edifying by her whole walk and conversation; more ready for every good word and work; more mild and affectionate, more firm and resolute in dangers, than she was. Satan so enraged some of her enemies, that they threatened to destroy her old tottering cottage, but God was graciously pleased to preserve her. A fine youth, of a noble mind, made her an offer of his hand. She first refused, but he declared he would wait for her even ten years. When she replied, that she could never consent to part with her poor orphans, he nobly answered, "Whoever takes the mother, takes the children too." So he did—and all these children were brought up by them in the most careful and excellent manner. Lately, they have taken in some other orphans, whom they are training up in the fear and love of God. Though these excellent people pass rather for rich, yet their income is so limited, and their benevolence so extensive, that sometimes they hardly know how to furnish a new suit of necessary clothes. To them I intend to give a Bible, considering that their own is very often lent out in different Roman Catholic villages.

2. A second Bible I intend to give to an excellent woman, Maria Schepler, who lives at the opposite end of my extensive parish, where the cold is more severe, and the ground unfruitful, so that nearly all the householders are poor people, who must lend their clothes to each other when they intend to go to the Lord's Supper. This poor woman is also a very distinguished character, in whose praise I could say much, were I to enter into particulars. Though distressed and afflicted in her own person and circumstances, yet she is a mother, benefactress, and teacher to the whole village where she lives, and to some neighbouring districts too. She takes the most lively interest in all which relates to the Redeemer's kingdom upon earth, and often groans under a sense of all the inroads made by the powers of darkness. She also has brought up several orphans without receiving the smallest reward, keeps a free school for females, and makes it a practice to lend her Bible to such as are entirely deprived of it.

3. A third Bible-present I intend to make to an excellent widow woman, Catharine Scheiddegger, who is, like the former, a mother to orphans, and keeps a free school; as also does another young woman, who instructs little children in a neighbouring village, in such knowledge as may render them useful members of human and Christian society.

I might easily enumerate many more characters of a similar description, whose eyes will overflow with grateful tears if they are favoured with the present of a Bible. Let me, however, only add this one remark, that it is necessary, in our parts, to have a number of Bibles in readiness to lend them out in the neighbouring districts, where all the people are Roman Catholics. For if they possess a Bible of their own, they are in danger of having it taken away by some blind Popish priests; but if it is only lent to them, they generally are permitted to return it.

Finally, farewell! May God be with you, with your congregation, and with all those kind friends who have so nobly come forward to our assistance.

THIS being the day appointed for the meeting of the Delegates of the Bible Societies, the paper is issued earlier this week than usual, and a more than ordinary proportion of the matter contained in this number relates to the subject of Bible Institutions.

E.D.